

III. A.

Attachment 3 - Letter from Secretary Dillon and proposed response

Attachment 3 (first part) of this agenda is withheld from research
under Guideline 2.

PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY

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J. LEE RANKIN,
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Honorable Douglas Dillon
Secretary of the Treasury
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is in response to your letter of January 28, 1964, and in confirmation of our discussion at our luncheon on February 4.

The Commission is delighted that you believe we can perform a useful service in reviewing procedures for the protection of the President. We agree that the Executive Order establishing the Commission does not make the extent of the Commission's responsibilities entirely clear, and welcome your proposal that you discuss this matter with the President, so that he may determine whether he considers it desirable to have the Commission participate in the review of security measures within the limits suggested in your letter.

The Commission appreciates the necessity of treating data about present and future Presidential protection with the most stringent security safeguards. Accordingly, the Commission subscribes, without qualification, to your suggestions as to precautions to be observed in affording the Commission access to materials on Presidential protection.

We anticipate that all members of the Commission staff will receive, in the near future, clearance through the level of Top Secret on the basis of a full field investigation under the direction of the Civil Service Commission. The Commission would institute measures to make certain that access to the data discussed in your letter would be available only to staff members with such clearance, and only to those staff members actually participating in this phase of the Commission's activities. As you suggest, the Commission would make certain that no publicity

would be given to this portion of the Commission's activities. Finally, any recommendations or comments which the Commission may desire to make respecting Presidential protection would be classified as appropriate, and made directly to the agency or agencies concerned or to the President.

The Commission would propose to adopt one further security precaution in this area. The member or members of the Commission's staff assigned to consider questions of Presidential protection would be instructed to limit, to the extent possible, materials in the Commission's records containing highly classified information. The staff would first review the data informally, and receive formally only that information which seemed necessary to the proper performance of the Commission. We would expect that this procedure would result in screening out detailed descriptions of most specific precaution measures.

The Commission would be pleased to have you advise the President, when you discuss this matter with him, that the Commission would adopt the measures outlined in this letter with respect to any classified data on Presidential protection, whether obtained from the Department of the Treasury or any other federal, state, or local agency.

Sincerely,

Chairman